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javascript

<language> (Formerly "LiveScript") Netscape's simple,
cross-platform, World-Wide Web scripting language, only
very vaguely related to Java (which is a Sun trademark).
JavaScript is intimately tied to the World-Wide Web, and
currently runs in only three environments - as a server-side
scripting language, as an embedded language in
server-parsed HTML, and as an embedded language run in
web
browsers where it is the most important part of DHTML.

JavaScript has a simplified {C}-like syntax and is tightly
integrated with the browser Document Object Model. It is
useful for implementing enhanced forms, simple web
database front-ends, and navigation enhancements.

JavaScript originated from Netscape and, for a time, only
their products supported it. Microsoft now supports a
work-alike called JScript. The resulting inconsistencies make
it difficult to write JavaScript that behaves the same in all
browsers. This could be attributed to the slow progress of
JavaScript through the standards bodies.

JavaScript runs "100x" slower than {C}, as it is purely

interpreted (Java runs "10x" slower than C code). Netscape and allies say JavaScript is an "open standard" in an effort to keep Microsoft from monopolising web software as they have desktop software. Netscape and Sun have co-operated to enable Java and JavaScript to exchange messages and data.

See also VBScript.

Usenet newsgroup: news:comp.lang.javascript.

Mailing List: <majordomo@obscure.org> ("subscribe javascript"
in body).

(2003-04-28)

Source: *The Free On-line Dictionary of Computing, © 1993-2005 Denis Howe*

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JavaScript Last modified: Friday, September 26, 2003

A scripting language developed by Netscape to enable Web authors to design interactive sites. Although it shares many of the features and structures of the full Java language, it was developed independently. Javascript can interact with HTML source code, enabling Web authors to spice up their sites with dynamic content. JavaScript is endorsed by a number of software companies and is an open language that anyone can use without purchasing a license. It is supported by recent browsers from Netscape and Microsoft, though Internet Explorer supports only a subset, which Microsoft calls Jscript.